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--64. A mold according to claim 55, wherein the thickness of the mold wall in the zones of weakness is greater than or equal to 1 mm.--

--65. A mold according to claim 55, having a continuous inner surface.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-65 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-9 are amended, and claims 10-65 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1 and 8 are amended to obviate the rejection. Although not rejected to by the Examiner, claims 2-7 and 9, are amended to correct informalities. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,942,928 to Loedding (hereinafter "Loedding"); and claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Loedding. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold continuous inner surface, as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, Loedding discloses (see Fig. 3 and col. 1, lines 62-65) a substantially radial through slot 37, so that the sleeve 19 may be "opened up" or expanded to facilitate the removal of a molded article therefrom.

Further, Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold having a cavity with a sloping bottom wall, as recited in new claim 11. Instead, Loedding discloses a piston 31 forming a bottom wall perpendicular to the internal bore 17 (see Fig. 1).

Further, Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold having a cavity having a part formed by two successive conical surfaces converging towards an opening of the mold, as recited in new claim 22. Instead, Loedding discloses a hydraulic mold 15 which has a tubular

body portion or cylinder 16 formed with an internal bore 17 (see col. 1, lines 51-53, and Fig. 1).

Further, Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold having a top portion having a flange, as recited in new claim 33. Instead, Loedding discloses cylindrical surface 23 which terminates at the end 24 of the body 16 (see col. 2, lines 1-2).

Further, Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold, wherein the mold has a flange surrounding the opening of the mold, as recited in new claim 44.

Further, Loedding does not teach or suggest a mold having an opening defined at least partially by a conical surface, as recited in new claim 55. Instead, Loedding discloses a mold 15 which has a cylinder 16 into which a tapered body 19 fits. The sleeve 19 has an internal bore 20 whose diameter preferably equals the diameter of the bore 17 (see col. 1, lines 51-57).

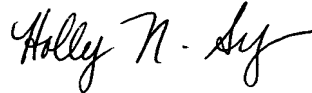
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, 22, 33, 44 and 55 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-10, 12-21, 23-32, 34-43, 45-54 and 56-65, which depend from claims 1, 11, 22, 33, 44 and 55, respectively, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:HNS

Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Appendix

Date: March 4, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 10-65 are added.

Claims 1-9 are amended.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) A mold for manufacturing a stick, ~~in particular for cosmetic use,~~ wherein the mold has a continuous inner surface and a side wall which includes zones of weakness facilitating radial deformation thereof.
2. (Amended) A mold according to claim 1, wherein said zones of ~~weaknesses~~weakness are obtained by means of recesses made in the side wall of the mold.
3. (Amended) A mold according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein said recesses extend longitudinally over substantially ~~the~~an entire height of the mold all the way to ~~its~~a bottom end of the mold.
4. (Amended) A mold according to claim 2, where in said recesses are constituted by notches that are uniformly distributed in ~~the~~a periphery of the mold.
5. (Amended) A mold according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~a bottoms of ~~the~~ said notches are rounded.
6. (Amended) A mold according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~a depth of the notches decreases on coming close to ~~the~~a bottom end of the mold.
7. (Amended) A mold according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~a maximum depth of the notches is greater than or equal to 4 mm.
8. (Amended) A mold according to claim 4, having sixteen to twenty said notches, ~~and preferably eighteen notches.~~
9. (Amended) A mold according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~a thickness of the ~~mold~~side wall in the zones of weakness is greater than or equal to 1mm.